



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
525 NE Oregon Street
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-2737

F/NWR5

January 27, 2002

Don Sampson, Executive Director
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
729 NE Oregon Street, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97232

Tim Weaver
Council to the Confederated Bands
and Tribes of the Yakama Indian Nation
402 Yakima Avenue, Suite 190
Yakima, WA 98907

Brett Swift, Associate Director
Dam Programs, Northwest Hydropower Programs
American Rivers
320 SW Stark Street, Suite 418
Portland, OR 97204

Subject: Request for 30-day extension of comment period for the Anadromous Fish
Agreements and Habitat Conservation Plans Final Environmental Impact
Statement.

Dear Reviewers:

As you correctly note, National Marine Fisheries Service's (NOAA Fisheries) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) titled *Anadromous Fish Agreements and Habitat Conservation Plans for the Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects* was noticed in the Federal Register on December 27, 2002 (67 FR 79082). This notice established a 30-day "cooling-down" period, ending January 27, 2002, during which NOAA Fisheries would accept public comments on the FEIS.

On behalf of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Council to the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Indian Nation, American Rivers, and Save Our Wild Salmon, you have each requested a 30-day extension (to February 26, 2002) to facilitate your review and comments on this document. In addition to your organizations, others have informally contacted us to request two- to four-week extensions of this comment period. We value the comments of our Federal, state, and tribal co-managers as well as those of interested non-governmental organizations and the general public and strive to provide reasonable opportunities for their



comments. Thus, to facilitate your efforts and those of other interested parties, we agree to extend the comment period by two weeks through February 10, 2002.

If you have any questions relating to this letter or the FEIS, please contact Ritchie Graves of my staff at 503-231-6891 or via e-mail at Ritchie.Graves@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian J. Brown
Assistant Regional Administrator
Hydro Program